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Marietta Power & Water 100TH Anniversary



Make Electrical Safety Month a Celebration to Remember

Marietta Power invites you to join us in making Electrical Safety Month a celebration you will long remember – and a celebration that will help you and those around you live longer.

Marietta Power, in conjunction with the Electrical Safety Foundation International and other power suppliers, promotes May as National Electrical Safety Month as a way of calling attention to potential hazards and preventing electrical-related deaths, injuries, and property damage.

According to the latest statistics from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, more

than 140,000 electrical-related fires cause an average of 500 deaths, nearly 5,000 injuries, and almost \$1.6 billion in property damage each year. In addition, an estimated 150 accidental product-related electrocutions occur each year.

Electrical hazards also exist in the workplace. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly 300 people get electrocuted on the job each year. Electrical hazards also cost businesses and individuals a great deal in the form of lost productivity, medical and insurance expenses, and litigations.

continued

Automated Meter Reading Ensures Accuracy and Safeguards Customer Privacy

All Marietta Power and Water electrical customers will enjoy the benefits of automated meter reading (AMR) by the end of this year, if everything goes according to schedule.

“AMR eliminates the need for meter readers to physically walk onto a customer’s property to read the meter every month,” said Jerry McGuirt. “So customers won’t get startled when they see someone strange walking up to their house to read the meters.” The electric meter used comes from the factory already tested and has a certification that it is accurate. In addition to the accuracy of the meter the technology allows us to read thousands of meters a day compared to several hundreds.

The solid state meter units transmit information to Marietta Power and Water trucks that make monthly rounds to all customer locations. Unlike human meter readers, the trucks can collect information from the meters in any kind of weather — without pets or people ever even noticing. A meter will even notify Marietta Power and Water if

anyone has tampered with it since the previous month’s transmission.

In addition, Marietta Power and Water inspects each automated meter once each year to ensure accuracy.

“We have never had a single erroneous reading on one of the automated meters,” McGuirt said. “The meters have no moving parts, so there aren’t any components to speed up, slow down, or wear out.”

He adds that the digital display panels on the automated meters make it easy for customers to check the reading for themselves.

Marietta Power and Water began installing the first automated electric meters for its customers about 12 years ago. Today, more than 37,000 customers have automated meters. Marietta Power and Water expect to install automated electric meters for all remaining customers by the end of the year.

“As part of the installation, we complete a safety inspection of the meter area and warn



continued

Make Electrical Safety Month a Celebration to Remember (continued)

Join the celebration. Get your family involved. Organize a neighborhood effort. Whip up support at work. Then:

Hunt Down Hazards Cracked electrical outlets, cracked or damaged insulation on cords, and loose or damaged plugs can all cause fires or shocks.

Have Wiring Inspected Electrical systems installed during the 1970s and earlier were not designed to handle the demand we place on them today. Having a licensed electrician perform periodic electrical inspections will provide maximum safety.

Buy Smart Select only electrical products that have been certified by a nationally recognized independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories, CSA Group, ETL, and MET Labs.

Curb Your Cords Use the proper extension cord for the intended application — indoor or outdoor and according to the amount of

power it will relay. Never nail or staple any electrical cord to the wall. Never place electrical cords in high-traffic areas or beneath carpets or furniture.

Know Your GFCIs From Your AFCIs If you haven't already done so, install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in your home. These devices can prevent electrocution by shutting off the circuit if they detect a "leak" of current. Test GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm. Install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to help prevent fires caused by arcing, where electricity has to jump a gap. For more information on GFCIs and AFCIs and their applications please contact a qualified licensed electrician.

For more information about improving electrical safety at home and on the job, please visit www.mariettagapower.com. ⚡

Automated Meter Reading Ensures Accuracy and Safeguards Customer Privacy (continued)

our customers about any potential hazards that may require attention," McGuirt said.

The success of the automated electric meters has also prompted Marietta Power and Water to begin installing automated water meters for Marietta Water customers. So far, the utility has installed approximately 2,000 automated water meters, and has a 10-year plan in place for converting all

remaining customers to the technology.

"The automated meters will also enable us to handle the continued growth of our customer base without incurring the expense of adding more meter readers to our staff," McGuirt said. "The automated meters are a win-win for everyone." ⚡

Calendar of Events

For a complete list of City of Marietta events please visit www.mariettaga.gov and click on Calendar of Events.

Saturday, June 10

Take A Kid Fishing

Laurel Park

Saturday 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Free

Introduce a child to old-fashioned bank fishing. The lakes are stocked with various fish.

Call (770) 794-5601 for information.

June 16 and 17

Cobb County Classic Rodeo

Jim R. Miller Park
8 p.m.

Adults \$14; children \$12; under 5 free.

Call (770) 684.7277 for information.

Friday, June 30

Glover Park Evening Concert Series

Marietta Square
8 p.m.

Free

The Glover Park Concert Series is "the" place to be in Marietta.

Call (770) 794-5601 for information.

Marietta Power and Water will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

City news by e-mail

Subscribe to the City of Marietta's E-News mailing list to receive the latest news, events and emergency updates. Log on to www.mariettaga.gov and scroll down to the "How Do I" section.